

BALLARAT NEWS

Mass of the Oils Monday, March 26, 2018: The Mass of the Oils will be celebrated in St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 6.30pm. This Mass is a celebration of the whole Church of the Diocese of Ballarat. We celebrate the unity and ministry of the ordained priests in the midst of the entire priestly people of God in Diocese. This Mass also has a special significance for those who will use the blessed oils in 2018—the sick, those to be baptized and confirmed. All members of the Diocese are invited to participate in this celebration which truly expresses the unity of the Diocesan Church.

Mercy Connect Ballarat – Supporting refugee and asylum seeker students in local schools. Volunteer mentors needed. Mercy Works is currently recruiting volunteers to support refugee and asylum seeker students, in Ballarat Schools, through their Mercy Connect Project. The volunteer commitment is for approximately 3 hours per week for 4 school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred, - ongoing training and support provided. Initial training for new volunteers will be held in Feb. 2018. Contact Paulene Barton - Mercy Connect Project Coordinator on 0417 624 330 or email: mercyconnectb@gmail.com

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Parishes of St Columba's and Our Lady Help of Christians

Communities of Ballarat North, Learmonth, Lexton, Miners Rest, Waubra, Wendouree



306 Gregory St, Ballarat North Phone: 0417 168 716

Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Web: ballarat.catholic.org.au (Select parish)

School Web: www.scballarat.catholic.edu.au

Presbytery: Phone 5332 4324

480a Gillies Street, P O Box 192 Wendouree Phone: 5339 2302

Email: wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Web: ballarat.catholic.org.au (Select parish)

School Web: www.olhcwendouree.catholic.edu.au

School Phone: 5339 4726

Parish Priest: Fr Marcello Colasante

Visiting Priest: Fr Barry Ryan

Staff at St Columba's

Pastoral Associate: Judith O'Sullivan

Mon—Wed 9.00am -1.00pm

Staff at Wendouree

Parish Co-ordinator: Maree Roache

Wed- Friday 9:00am—1:00pm

Exodus Community: 5338 2118

Safeguarding Officers:

St Columba's: Peter Marquand
OLHC: Maree Roache

Mass times: St Columba's

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm

Sunday: 10:00 am

Mass times: Wendouree

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am Rural

10:00 am OLHC

Readings for next weekend:

Genesis 22: 1-2, 9,10-13, 15-18

Psalms 115:10, 15-19

Romans 8:31-34

Mark 9:2-10



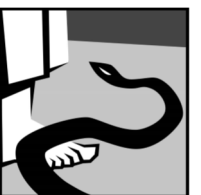
18th February 2018 1st Sunday of Lent (B)

Focus on the Scriptures

Today's readings show us that Lent is a time for us to receive God's grace. We are not the ones who, through our penance, are meant to accomplish great things. Rather, it is God who acts; it is God who makes the sacrifice; it is God who accomplishes great things for us.

Each reading describes a different kind of conflict within which we might find ourselves: a world-wrenching upheaval, such as happens during social discord, war or natural disaster; the struggle between right and wrong, between fidelity and disobedience; the struggle with temptation. In the midst of the conflicts of life, God initiates a covenant with us. God saves the world from the chaos into which it was thrown, makes a covenant with all living things and with the earth, and sets a bow in the heavens as a perpetual reminder of the covenant. Christ dies for sinners, and offers them baptism that will save them from the chaos of their lives. The Spirit drives Jesus into the desert, there to be tested, but to emerge triumphant. His victory is not for him alone, but for all who will heed his words and follow his example.

The bow in the sky is a sign of the good news of the covenant; baptism is both the good news of salvation for us and our pledge of fidelity to God; Jesus' proclamation is that the reign of God is at hand. With the psalmist we praise God for inviting us into this covenant relationship. © Dianne Bergant CSS



Responsorial Psalm: Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Jac Klutz, David Ferguson, Nell Van Der Ploeg (Hans's mother)

Anniversaries: We remember: Rod Lacey

We pray: for the sick of our Parishes especially Blake Dridan (pupil at St Columba's School) For our RCIA and RCIC candidates who are preparing for reception of the Sacraments. And for St Columba's Grade 5 students preparing for Senior Reconciliation.

ST COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWS

Station of the Cross will be offered on Fridays during Lent starting on Friday 23rd February at 6.30pm. This will be followed by a time of reflection and sharing on the upcoming Sunday's Gospel. All welcome to join in this wonderful preparation for Easter. For further information please contact Judith on 0417 168 716

Caritas Today, the first Sunday of Lent, is Week 1 of Project Compassion, Caritas Australia's six-week Lenten fundraising appeal. This year we celebrate A Just Future for all in conjunction with the Year of Youth. Project Compassion enables you to make a difference to young people around the world. Last year, with your help, Project Compassion raised over \$11 million. This amount is testament to your enormous generosity and compassion. Again this year you can make a difference and contribute to A Just Future for our most vulnerable youth and their communities. You can make your donation in the collection box or use the donation envelopes on your seat. Just Future for all starts with your support. Thank you

Chanel College 60th Anniversary Reunion for students of THE MARIST FATHERS ERA [1958-1970]. For details send your email address to chanel.geelong@gmail.com OR your postal details to PO Box 3069 Geelong West 3218

Mass of the Oils Monday 26 March 6.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral. Can you assist on the night by being an usher, musician or singer, help with set up, reader, collector of oils etc? If so, please contact Judith in the Parish Office

St Vinnies would love your help. Every Sunday evening members and friends of the St Vincent de Paul team delivers donated bread to a number of families around Ballarat North. Upon collection of the bread, we re-bag and deliver it in pairs to designated houses – the job is usually completed within the hour. We have a number of committed people who support this program but would love to hear from anyone who is interested in helping out – on a rostered or casual basis. This is a wonderful opportunity to volunteer a little of your time every so often to help out those in need – and we would appreciate any support you can give. We are also keen to hear from anyone who would be happy to help with the Piety Stall some Saturday nights – we will show you all you need to know and it is a great way to meet and greet fellow parishioners. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the Parish Office or speak to the person on the Piety Stall before/after Mass. As always, if you are interested in finding out more about our St Vincent de Paul Conference, we would warmly welcome any enquiries or new members!

Thanksgiving	We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 972	
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1903	Average for this financial year \$2,023

NEXT WEEKEND	SATURDAY 24th February	SUNDAY 25th February	What's on:
WELCOMER	Madigan Family	Geraldine Mugavin	Tuesday 20th Liturgy Meeting 7:30 pm Parish Office Thursday 22nd February 7pm PPC meeting Friday 23rd February 6.30pm Stations of Cross Upcoming Dates: Wednesday 21st March 11am Mass of Anointing followed by a light lunch Monday 26th March 6.30pm Mass of the Oils, St Patrick's Cathedral Tuesday 27th March 7pm Parish Reconciliation in the Church
COMMENTATOR	Tom Keogh Snr	Volunteer please	
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Maureen Mooney	Kierce O'Loughlin	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Jennifer Adams	Mandy Carroll	
GIFTS	Edgar Family	Maureen & Hans van der Ploeg	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Kathleen Keogh, Troy Severino, Shirley Edgar	Bruce Chapman, Alison Thorpe, Judith O'Sullivan	
OVERHEADS	Em Barlow	Harry Chapman	
SACRISTAN	Maree	Maureen	

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH NEWS

Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday February, 21st at 7.00pm in the Parish Centre.



Parish Rosters for the next 4 months have been finalised. The Combined Ministries Roster and Contact List have been emailed to those parishioners who have volunteered for service. Additional rosters are available in the sacristy for those who do not receive emailed copies. Thanks for your support in these vital ministries.

Fr Marcello will be on Retreat this week, with the priests of this Diocese and Bishop Paul. In an emergency please phone the Cathedral; **5331 2933**.

Project Compassion boxes and donation envelopes are available for collection in the church foyer.

Nazareth House Ballarat Independent Living Apartments Nazareth House Ballarat have one bedroom and two bedroom independent living apartments for sale. If anyone interested, please contact Sr Elisapeta Tevaga, ph. 0409842330

Villa Maria Catholic Homes – Home Care Packages. Do you or your loved one need care at home? Villa Maria Catholic Homes offers government-funded Home Care Packages designed to support you living independently in your home for longer. To find out more speak to your local expert Marianne, ph. 03 5330 3899 or visit vmch.com.au

	First Sunday of Lent 18th February 2018		
This Sunday's story is about empowering young people like Janaki in Nepal to build a just future for themselves, their families and communities. Through the funds donated from Project Compassion, Janaki, who was forced into marriage at the age of 12, widowed two years later and was ostracized by her community. Janaki received an education, commenced a business and become a role model in her community through the support of Caritas programs. A Just Future starts with your support. Please consider taking a box or envelopes and donating to Project Compassion. Thank you.			
A Just Future starts with your support! You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, which can be found in the foyer.			
Collections: We thank you for your generous support			
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$	665	
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$	723	
Loose Money	\$	1.35	
17/18th Feb	Sat 6 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's on this week
LEADER of SONG	Laureen Rhodes	Margaret White	Wednesday 21st PPC Meeting at "Exodus Community" House. Wednesday 21st Liturgy Meeting 10:30 am Thursday 22nd Properties Meeting 10:30 am Thursday 22nd Lenten Group 7pm March Thursday 1st Miners Rest Community Mass
MINISTER of the WORD	Trish Pora	Peter Dwyer	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Bev Hayward, Joyce Jackson, Mavis McNulty, + 2 volunteers.	Maxine Rousch, Val Bourke, + 3 volunteers	
SACRISTAN	Tony & Pauline Newman	Joyce Jackson	
COUNTERS		Brendan Curran, Trish & Geoff Doery	
CHURCH CLEANING	Beth Clark & Margaret McLean		
Rural Communities 8:30 am This Weekend — Waubra Next Weekend— Learmonth			
Minister of Word:	Cate Molloy	Bill Keating	
Minister of Eucharist :	Sharon Moran	Bev Hayward	
Church Cleaning:	Kerryn & Lawrence Gallagher	Bev Hayward	